

Message Text

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ACTION CU-05

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P 161455Z JUL 74

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SUBJ: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS - JUL 16, 74

1.A. PSYCHOLOGICAL SITUATION. WITH DRAMA OF ABU JAWDEH ABDUCTION RECEDING, LEBANESE HAVE AGAIN BEGUN TO FOCUS ON MIDEAST CRISIS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR LEBANON. SUCCESSIVE AND OFTEN CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS OF VARIOUS PALESTINIAN, ISRAELI, AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS PELESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA, PALESTINIAN STATE, ETC ARE BEING CAREFULLY EXAMINED, AS LEBANESE HOPE SOME SOLUTION TO THEIR OWN PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WILL BE FOUND BEFORE ISRAEL MAKES ANOTHER MAJOR INCURSION INTO LEBANON. IN THIS CONTEXT PRESS CONTINUES TO CONTRAST BREZHNEV'S GESTURE IN REPLYING TO LETTERS FROM PRES FRANJIEH AND ARAFAT WITH USG'S CONTINUING SILENCE ON FRANJIEH'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON.

IN FOOTNOTE TO ABU JAWDEH AFFAIR, GOL AND GHASSAN TUNI'S AN-NAHAR HAVE CONTINUED TO MAKE CONCILIATORY GUESTURES TOWARDS EACH OTHER. AN-NAHAR HAS PRAISED GOL'S HANDLING OF AFFAIR AND MODERATED ITS ATTACKS ON REGIME; GOL HAS SUSPENDED "ADVERTISING WAR" IT HAS LAUNCHED TO

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PERSUAD EFIRMS NOT TO ADVERTISE IN AN-NAHAR; MILITARY

TRIBUNAL HAS REACHED COMPROMISE VERDICT IN PRESS CASE
ARISING OUT OF TUENI'S PUBLICATION OF "SECRET" RESOLUTIONS
OF ALGIERS SUMMIT.

2. B. PROGRAM HARKNESS BALLET. HARKNESS BALLET, TOURING
UNDER COMMERCIAL AUSPICES, RECEIVED POST ASSISTANCE ON
PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS AS IT OPENED 1974 BAALBECK
FESTIVAL SEASON WITH THREE PERFORMANCES. ALMOST ALL
CRITICAL REACTION WAS UNENTHUSIASTIC, WHILE PUBLIC REACTION
WAS MIXED. MANY THOUGH DANCERS VERY GOOD BUT FOUND SOME
WORKS, PARTICULARLY "FIREBIRD", BADLY CHOREOGRAPHED.
ATTENDANCE AT 2000-SEAT TEMPLE OF BACCHUS WAS 60-70 PCT
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY AND FULL HOUSE SATURDAY. TROUPE
APPRECIATED AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION IN ITS HONOR AND MIXED
WELL WITH LEBANESE DANCERS AND DANCE ENTHUSIASTS IN ATTENDANCE.

3. CENTER ACTIVITIES. IN SPITE OF MANY SUMMER DISTRACTIONS,
NEAR-CAPACITY AUDIENCES OF CENTER MEMBERS ATTENDED TWO
SHOWINGS OF CLASSIC FEATURE FILM "LAURA". SIMILARLY, LIBRARY
REPORTS CONTINUED INCREASE IN ALL ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY
ATTENDANCE. HOWEVER, EXCEPT FOR FIRNE AND PERFORMING ARTS
LUNGE, LIBRARY WILL CLOSE JULY 15 FOR ONE MONTH WHILE EXTENSIVE
SECURITY-RELATED MODIFICATIONS ARE MADE TO MAIN READING ROOM.

4. AL-MAJAL MAGAZINE. AL-MAJAL RECEIVED MORE KUDOS, THIS
TIME IN LETTER FROM FEMALE UNIVERSITY STUDENT IN ECONOMICS
AND POLITICAL SCIENCE. AS TRANSLATED BY CHIEF OF DISTRIBUTION
SECTION, LETTER READS: "FOR YEARS, YOUR THRIVING MAGAZINE
HAS BEEN SENT TO MY FATHER'S OFFICE. I READ IT WITH EXCEEDING
INTEREST, AND THEN IT IS ALSO PERUSED BY MEMBERS OF MY
FAMILY, RELATIVES, AND FRIENDS, ESPECIALLY UNIVERSITY AND HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENT. I BIND AL-MAJAL AND DISPLAY VOLUMES IN
FAMILY LIBRARY BECAUSE IT CONTAINS SCIENTIFIC, SOCIAL, AND
ARTISTIC ARTICLES, ALL OF WHICH ARE INTERESTING AND PRECIOUS.
HOWEVER, I WISH YOUR MAGAZINE WOULD ADD SOME GUIDANCE ON
AMERICAN ECONOMIC S AND POLITICS, ESPECIALLY THOSE SUBJECTS
RELATING TO ARAB WORLD, THUS INCREASING CONFIDENCE IN
MUCH-SOUGHT PEACE AND RESTORING PEACE OF MIND IN MIDEAST."

5. PRESS PLACEMENT. POST PLACED SAM BURKS USINFO ON "U S-
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SOVIET AGREEMENT DEFINES SCOPE OF LONG-TERM ECONOMIC
COOPERATION" ON FRONT PAGE OF SPECIALIZED FRENCH-LANGUAGE
BIWEEKLY COMMERCE DU LEBANT. PRO-CAIRO AL-ANWAR CARRIED
POST RELEASE ON "STATE OFFICIALS SUPPORT EGYPT, ISRAEL
REACTORS" FROM NESA 132, WHILE LEADING LEFTIST PRO-FEDAYEEN
AL-MUHARRIR, PRO-CAIRO AL-YAWM, AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE
DAILY STAR CARRIED POST RELEASE ON "FULBRIGHT'S COMMENTS
ON MEET THE PRESS" FROM NESA 131.

6. VTR SHOWINGS. POST SHOWED VTR OF MIKE WALLACE'S "SIXTY MINUTES" PROGRAM ON PALESTINIANS TO EMBASSY STAFF. APPROX 40, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR, ATTENDED, GIVING POST OPPORTUNITY TO PUBLICIZE USEFULNESS OF VTR MEDIUM.

7. RADIO PLACEMENT. POST PLACED ALL ITEMS RECEIVED FROM VOA ARABIC SERVICE ON RADIO LEBANON'S PRIME-TIME NEWSREEL AS FOLLOWS: "US SUPREME COURT HEARS WATERGATE TAPES CASE" ON 7/9; "SIMON TO MIDEAST AND EUROPE" ON 7/11; "CONGRESS ON MIDEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY" ON 7/12.

8. TV PLACEMENT. POST PLACED VISION USA #6, SCIENCE REPORT #137, AND PLANET EARTH: MAGNETIC FORCE ON ALL-CHANNEL EDUCATIONAL TV.

9. THEATRICAL PLACEMENT. POST PLACED THREE "ONE MAN" DOCUMENTARIES ON THEATRICAL CIRCUIT IN BEIRUT AND SIDON.
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